

**Sealed**Public and unofficial staff access  
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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISIONUnited States District Court  
Southern District of Texas  
**FILED**

JUL 23 2019

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

§

vs.

§

CRIMINAL NO.

ROEL ALANIS

§

**B-19-673****SEALED  
INDICTMENT**

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

**COUNT 1****INTRODUCTION****At all times material to this indictment:**

The "El Valle Detention Center" (EVDC) is an immigration detention facility located in Raymondville, Texas, and operated by the Management and Training Corporation (MTC) under contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain alien immigrants awaiting disposition of immigration cases and/or removal from the United States (U.S.).

The "Willacy County Regional Detention Center" (WCRDC) is a detention facility located in Raymondville, Texas. WCRDC houses federal inmates detained by ICE and by the United States Marshals Service.

The "Port Isabel Detention Center" (PIDC) is an immigration detention facility located in Los Fresnos, Texas, operated by ICE, where alien immigrants are detained while awaiting disposition of immigration cases and/or removal from the U.S.

MTC is a private security company that provides and manages detention and security services under contract with ICE to house ICE immigration detainees. MTC's

employees operate and act for, or on behalf of, ICE in official functions under the authority of the department or agency. MTC provides services to EVDC and WCRDC.

ICE detains alien immigrants at facilities such as EVDC and PIDC, while said aliens await further criminal or administrative processing for removal or release pending further hearings.

"Alien Detainee Roster Lists" (Detainee Roster or Detainee Rosters) contain names, dates of birth, country of origin, and "A numbers" of alien detainees, as well as housing assignments. Detainee Rosters are law enforcement sensitive and are for official use only, intended to be utilized by facility employees in the course of their official duties. Removal of Detainee Rosters from ICE detention facilities is strictly prohibited.

**ROEL ALANIS ("ALANIS")** is an attorney licensed to practice in the state of Texas with a practice in the Rio Grande Valley, and who paid money to the co-conspirators in return for receiving Detainee Rosters; and who would visit, or instruct others to visit, said aliens for the purpose of hiring **ALANIS'** law firm as their attorney in immigration proceedings.

**BENITO BARRIENTEZ ("BARRIENTEZ")**, was employed by MTC assigned to the WCRDC located in Raymondville, Texas, as a Classification Clerk.

**DAMIAN ORTIZ ("ORTIZ")**, was employed by MTC assigned to the WCRDC located in Raymondville, Texas, as a Senior Program Director.

**EXY ADELAIDA GOMEZ ("GOMEZ")**, was employed by MTC assigned to the EVDC located in Raymondville, Texas, as a Detention Officer.

### **THE CONSPIRACY**

From on or about February 10, 2018, to on or about February 6, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did knowingly and willfully conspire and agree with persons known and unknown to the Grand Jurors, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and 201(b)(2)(C), that is, the object of their conspiracy and agreement was to corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of official duty, and also to corruptly demand, seek, receive, accept, and agree to receive and accept something of value personally, in return for being induced to do an act in violation of official duty.

**MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY**

It was a part of the conspiracy that:

BARRIENTEZ, ORTIZ, GOMEZ, and others obtained Detainee Rosters from EVDC and PIDC detention facilities.

BARRIENTEZ and ORTIZ would provide the Detainee Rosters to **ROEL ALANIS** or to others as directed by **ROEL ALANIS**.

**ROEL ALANIS** would pay ORTIZ and BARRIENTEZ for the Detainee Rosters they would provide.

**ROEL ALANIS** would provide ORTIZ and BARRIENTEZ money to pay other conspirators who also provided Detainee Rosters.

**ROEL ALANIS** or others at his direction, would then visit alien immigrant detainees at detention facilities seeking employment in immigration matters.

**OVERT ACTS**

1. On or about August 27, 2018, **ROEL ALANIS** received an EVDC Detainee Roster.
2. On August 28, 2018, **ROEL ALANIS**, provided the EVDC Detainee Roster to an individual associated with **ALANIS'** law firm via text for the purpose of having the individual visit immigration detainees on the Detainee Roster.
3. On August 28, 2018, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, an individual associated with **ALANIS'** law firm visited twelve (12) immigration detainees detained at EVDC, for the purpose of convincing them to hire **ROEL ALANIS'** law firm in an immigration matter.
4. On or about September 13, 2018, **ROEL ALANIS** received an EVDC Detainee Roster.
5. On September 13, 2018, **ROEL ALANIS**, provided the EVDC Detainee Roster to an individual associated with **ALANIS'** law firm via text for the purpose of having the individual visit immigration detainees on the Detainee Roster.
6. On September 13, 2018, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, an individual associated with **ALANIS'** law firm visited five (5) immigration detainees detained at EVDC, for the purpose of convincing them to hire **ROEL ALANIS'** law firm in an immigration matter.
7. On or about January 4, 2019, BARRIENTEZ called GOMEZ requesting she obtain the EVDC Detainee Roster to give to **ROEL ALANIS** and in return BARRIENTEZ would pay her \$300.
8. On January 9, 2019, BARRIENTEZ called GOMEZ to say he had discussed her payment with **ROEL ALANIS** and ORTIZ; all agreed that she would instead get paid \$500 for the EVDC Detainee Roster.

9. On January 9, 2019, GOMEZ obtained the EVDC Detainee Roster while at work at EVDC.
10. On January 9, 2019, GOMEZ and BARRIENTEZ met at a parking lot in Harlingen, Texas, where GOMEZ gave the EVDC Detainee Roster to BARRIENTEZ who then paid her \$500.
11. On January 9, 2019, BARRIENTEZ and ORTIZ met at a parking lot in Lyford, Texas, where BARRIENTEZ gave the EVDC Detainee Roster to ORTIZ.
12. In the afternoon of January 9, 2019, ORTIZ, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, delivered the EVDC Detainee Roster to another individual in Weslaco, Texas. This individual then paid ORTIZ \$350 for the EVDC Detainee Roster.
13. On the evening of January 9, 2019, BARRIENTEZ obtained a Detainee Roster for PIDC from GOMEZ. BARRIENTEZ then paid GOMEZ \$200 for the PIDC Detainee Roster.
14. On January 10, 2019, ORTIZ obtained the PIDC Detainee Roster from BARRIENTEZ.
15. On January 10, 2019, ORTIZ gave BARRIENTEZ \$400 for the PIDC Detainee Roster.
16. On January 14, 2019, **ROEL ALANIS** sent a text message to ORTIZ saying he would purchase the PIDC Detainee Roster for \$1,000.
17. On January 14, 2019, **ROEL ALANIS** met with ORTIZ and had him drive to a location where **ROEL ALANIS** took possession of the PIDC Detainee Roster and then had another individual give ORTIZ a "red gift bag" containing \$1,000.

18. On or about January 15, 2019, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, an individual associated with **ALANIS'** law firm visited JFB (initials), a Honduran national detained at EVDC, for the purpose of convincing JFB to hire **ROEL ALANIS'** law firm in an immigration matter.
19. On January 22, 2019, **ROEL ALANIS** met with ORTIZ to discuss **ROEL ALANIS'** continuing efforts to receive Detainee Rosters, steps to prevent discovery of said purchases, and where the money transfers would occur.
20. On January 22, 2019, **ROEL ALANIS** sent a text message to ORTIZ to inform him an individual, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, would be delivering money to ORTIZ' residence.
21. On January 23, 2019, an individual, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, delivered \$500 to ORTIZ' residence.
22. On January 31, 2019, **ROEL ALANIS** sent a text message to ORTIZ to encourage ORTIZ to continue efforts to obtain Detainee Rosters which would be paid for, and that money would be placed under a flower pot at ORTIZ' residence.
23. January 31, 2019, an individual, at the direction of **ROEL ALANIS**, placed \$670 under a flower pot at ORTIZ' residence.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

## **COUNT 2**

On or about January 9, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did, directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of her official duty, that is, Benito Barrientez gave \$500.00 to Exy Aldelaida Gomez, a Detention Officer, a public official employed at the EVDC, and in return the public official provided a EVDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18, Untied States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 3**

On or about January 9, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did, directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of her official duty, that is, Benito Barrientez gave \$200.00 to Exy Adelaida, Gomez, a Detention Officer, a public official employed at EVDC, and in return the public official provided a PIDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18, Untied States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 4**

On or about January 10, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did, directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of his official duty, that is, Damian Ortiz gave \$400.00 to Benito Barrientez, a Classification Clerk, a public official employed at the WCRDC detention facility, and in return the public official provided a PIDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 5**

On or about January 14, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of his official duty, that is, Roel Alanis gave \$1,000.00 to Damian Ortiz, a Senior Program Director, a public official employed at the EVDC, and in return the public official provided a PIDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.



**COUNT 6**

On or about January 22, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of his official duty, that is, Roel Alanis gave \$500.00 to Damian Ortiz, a Senior Program Director, a public official employed at the EVDC, and in return the public official provided a EVDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

**COUNT 7**

On or about February 6, 2019, in the Southern District of Texas and within the jurisdiction of the Court, Defendant,

**ROEL ALANIS,**

did directly and indirectly, corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce the public official to do an act in violation of his official duty, that is, Roel Alanis gave \$670.00 to a public official, and in return the public official provided a PIDC Detainee Roster containing law enforcement sensitive data, including names, dates of birth, country of origin, "A-numbers", and housing assignments of alien detainees.

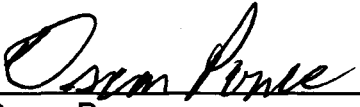
In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) and Title 18,  
United States Code, Section 2.

A TRUE BILL:

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FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

RYAN K. PATRICK  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
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Oscar Ponce  
Assistant United States Attorney